

March 29, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Docket # 98N-1038, "h-radiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

To whom it may concern:

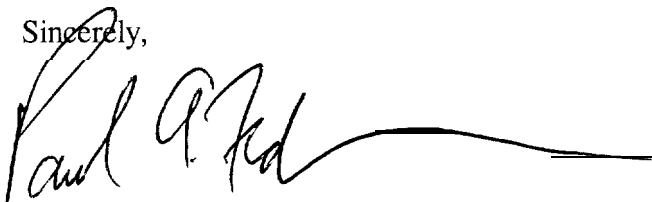
I am an environmental scientist and agricultural policy specialist for the U.S. Government. I strongly believe that the FDA should retain the current labeling law including the terminology and the use of the radura symbol on all irradiated whole foods.

As a consumer and scientist I have the right to know when my food and its processing has been changed due to any treatment. Is it not true that some irradiated foods have different texture and spoilage characteristics than untreated foods or that most fruits and vegetables have nutrient losses that are not obvious or expected by the consumer?

Of course I also believe that labels should be large enough to be readily visible to the consumer, on the front of the package. This should extend to displayed whole foods such as produce, with requirements for prominent informational displays similar to that used for meats.

Because this is a new technology and the long term public health effects of irradiated foods and their widespread use are not known at this time, I believe that the FDA's labeling requirement should be extended into the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,



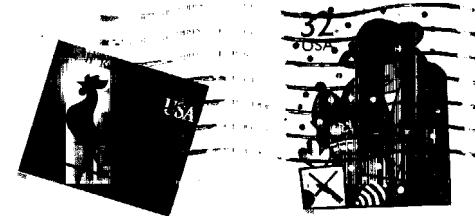
Paul A. Feder

cc: Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Diane Feinstein
Representative Barbara Lee

98N-1038

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